



Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

"As Attorney General, I work each day toward creating safer communities for children – communities in which parents feel confident that their kids are safe from school violence, sex offenders, and even online predators. However, children also face an equally serious threat from a less obvious culprit: lead."

Attorney General Lisa Madigan

Is Lead Poisoning a Serious Danger to the Health and Safety of My Kids?

The dangers of lead poisoning are very real. Most harmful to children ages six and younger, lead poisoning can cause irreversible neurological damage, intelligence loss, attention disorders, and behavioral and other developmental problems.

How Are Children Exposed to Lead Poisoning?

Children are most commonly exposed to lead poisoning through lead-based paint in older homes. Although lead-based paint was banned for use in housing in 1978, homes built before the ban may still contain the leaded paint. Poisoning most often occurs as a result of children inhaling or ingesting either lead dust or paint chips.

Children may also be exposed to lead contained in children's products. While accessible lead in consumer products has been banned, discoveries of both accessible lead and lead paint in or on children's toys and clothing have prompted millions of unit recalls.

How Can I Find Out if My Child Has Lead Poisoning?

For the most part, unless lead poisoning is very severe, symptoms are rare. It is virtually impossible to detect without a blood test.

What Can I Do to Protect My Children from Lead?

Lead poisoning is completely preventable. You can protect your children by following some basic guidelines:

- Get your children, ages six months through six years, tested for lead each year.
- If you live in an older home, have it inspected for lead. Call the Illinois Department of Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 1-800-545-2200 for more information.
- Regularly wet clean floors, windowsills, and other surfaces. Take off shoes before entering the house.
- Wash children's hands before they eat, after they play outside, and before they go to sleep.
- Find out if you have any recalled products in your home. A list of recalled products is available at www.cpsc.gov. You can also visit www.KidsInDanger.org for more information on recalled products.
- Stay up-to-date on recalled products. You can sign up to receive e-mail notification of recalls at www.cpsc.gov or www.recalls.gov. Kids In Danger also sends out monthly e-mail alerts, which you can sign up for by visiting www.KidsInDanger.org or calling 312-595-0649.

Where Can I Get More Information?

If you would like to know more about lead poisoning and the presence of lead in children's products, Kids In Danger, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the safety of children's products, has released an important report titled, *Playing With Poison: Lead Poisoning Hazards of Children's Product Recalls 1990-2004*.

Playing With Poison provides information about the causes of lead poisoning and its harmful effects on children; ways to protect your family from lead; details on children's products recalled for lead; and recommendations to help keep products with lead from ever reaching our kids. *Playing With Poison* can be obtained in its entirety at www.KidsInDanger.org. The recall list below was excerpted from that report.

Children's Products Recalled for Lead Hazard: 1990 – 2004

For more information, find complete recall information on these products at www.cpsc.gov or call Kids In Danger at 312-595-0649. These are specific products; this list does not imply that all of the named products by these manufacturers have been recalled. Check the recall notice for dates of manufacture and sale and model numbers as appropriate.

A & A Global metal toy jewelry sold in vending machine
A.J. Cohen Distributors 64 crayons
Advantage Publishers educational kits
Alpha Int'l Inc. (Gearbox) 17 models of pedal cars
Bargain Wholesale 64 crayons, kidz biz
Baum Imports 64 crayons
Brand Imports children's rings
Brand Imports metal toy jewelry sold in vending machine
Cardinal Distributing Co. vending machine toy jewelry
Charming Shoppers Inc. children's necklaces
Concord Enterprises 12 jumbo crayons
Direct Source Int'l Inc. small plastic Halloween candy buckets
Dynamic Div. of Agora Int'l 12 super jumbo and 8 crayon sets
Edna Products Co. animal shape wagons
Effanbee Doll Co. miniature rocking chairs
EMSCO Inc. children's toy brooms
Front Porch Classics old century dread pirate game
Gap Kids spring/summer anoraks
Glory Stationery Manufacturing Co. crayons
Gymboree children's umbrellas
Jaclyn Inc. Barney bags, beach bags, and backpacks
Kindermusik Int'l lily pad clacker instruments
Kipp Brothers 12 crayons
Kmart Corp. infant girls rompers
L.M. Becker & Co. vending machine toy jewelry

L.M. Becker & Co. toy necklaces
Learning Curve Int'l two different activity toys
Little Tikes crib centers
M. Grumbacher paintbrushes
Marx Brush Manufacturing paintbrush set
McDonalds & Bobbie Dreams bobble head figures
Meco Corp. Children's Furniture Set: red chairs
Mervyn's California children's picnic sets
Midwest Importers wooden bead jewelry
NIKE little Air Jordan sneakers
Oriental Trading Co. wooden beads and spinning tops
Oscar Mayer Foods Corp. wienermobile pedal cars
Overseas United fun times 72 crayons
PJ Toys children's furniture
Polymeric paint kits
Pyramid Accessories Inc. Mulan backpacks & luggage
Radio Flyer little wooden wagons
Safan Ltd. magnet games
Target (Agglo Corp) multicolored sidewalk chalk
Toys "R" Us (Agglo Corp) sidewalk chalk
Toys "R" Us 48 Crayons
U.S. Toy Co. puzzles
Universal Int'l 64 crayons
Wear Me Apparel infant boys rompers
XL Machine Ltd. dollhouse bathroom furniture

please visit

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov



Chicago
1-800-386-5438
TTY: 1-800-964-3013

Springfield
1-800-243-0618
TTY: 877-844-5461

Carbondale
1-800-243-0607
TTY: 877-675-9339